

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) ~~A transporting~~ Transporting apparatus for transporting workpieces in a plane in which the workpieces are transported, for transporting each of said workpieces through processing stations at which the workpieces are processed, in a transporting direction from a one of the processing stations to a next one of the processing stations without the interposition of an intermediate station, the transporting apparatus comprising:

at least one articulated arm supported above ~~[[a]]~~ said plane in which the workpieces are transported ~~for transporting each of said workpieces in a transporting direction from a processing station to a next processing station without the interposition of an intermediate station~~, the articulated arm being arranged and configured for transporting each ~~of said workpiece~~ workpieces with at least a lifting movement, a pivoting movement about an axis perpendicular to said plane and a horizontal movement parallel to said plane, each said articulated arm comprising first and second arm components connected together by an articulation; ~~the transporting apparatus further comprising~~

a longitudinal crossmember mounted above said plane and extending in the workpiece transporting direction[[,]];

a carriage guided on the longitudinal crossmember, each said articulated arm being pivotably mounted directly on the carriage[[,]]for providing the pivoting movement about said axis perpendicular to said plane;

[[a]] at least one pivot drive mounted on the carriage for effecting said pivoting movement[[,]];

a drive fixed relative to the carriage for effecting said horizontal movement of the carriage; and

a lift drive for effecting said lift movement.

7. (Currently amended) A transporting apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 6, wherein said at least one articulated arm comprises two articulated arms for feeding respective workpieces to respective processing stations, the two articulated arms being arranged as mirror images each of the other, and wherein, for each of said articulated [[arm]] arms, a respective one of said at least one pivot drive is mounted on the carriage, each said respective one of said at least one pivot drive effecting said pivoting movement of [[each]] a corresponding one of said articulated [[arm]] arms in opposition to the other.

8. (Currently amended) A transporting ~~Transporting~~ apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a transverse crossmember which is pivotable about an axis parallel to said plane and extending in the workpiece transporting direction[[,]];

a drive for the pivoting of the transverse crossmember[[,]];

a toothed wheel driven by the drive for the pivoting; and

a toothed member arranged to be engaged by the toothed wheel.

9. (Currently amended) A transporting ~~Transporting~~ apparatus according to claim [[6]] 8, wherein:

said transverse crossmember is rotatable about an axis extending through a lengthwise dimension of said transverse crossmember; and

the transporting apparatus further comprises a drive for rotating said transverse crossmember about said axis of said transverse crossmember.

10. (Currently amended) A transporting ~~Transporting~~ apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a workpiece holder mounted on each of said at least one articulated arms and a respective drive for each said workpiece holder for moving the workpiece holder in a direction transverse to the workpiece transporting direction.

11. (New) A transporting apparatus for transporting workpieces along a plane, in a workpiece transporting direction, through processing stations supported at which the workpieces are processed, the transporting apparatus comprising:

a longitudinal crossmember mounted above said plane and extending in the workpiece transporting direction along a longitudinal axis;

a carriage guidably supported on the longitudinal crossmember for displaceable movement therealong codirectionally with the longitudinal axis; and

at least one articulated arm comprising first and second arm components connected together by an articulation, a one of said first and second arm components being pivotably mounted directly to the carriage for pivotable movement about a pivot axis generally perpendicular to said plane so as to be pivotably supported above said plane along which the workpieces are transported.

12. (New) A transporting apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

at least one pivot drive mounted on the carriage for effecting said pivotable movement about said pivot axis; and

a displacement drive fixed relative to the carriage for effecting said displaceable movement of the carriage

13. (New) A transporting apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a lift drive for effecting a lift movement of said longitudinal crossmember relative to said plane.

14. (New) A transporting apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a transverse crossmember carried on a free end of said at least one articulated arm.

15. (New) A transporting apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said transverse crossmember is pivotable about an axis parallel to said plane and extending in the workpiece transporting direction, and said apparatus further comprising a drive for pivoting of the transverse crossmember, a toothed wheel driven by the drive for the pivoting, and a toothed member arranged to be engaged by the toothed wheel.

16. (New) A transporting apparatus according to claim 14, wherein:
said transverse crossmember is rotatable about an axis extending through a lengthwise dimension of said transverse crossmember; and
the transporting apparatus further comprises a drive for rotating said transverse crossmember about said axis of said transverse crossmember.